

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014

Members present: Dr. Krakow, Ms. Maher, Ms. Lefman, and Dr. Schlaff

Staff present: Dr. Balsam, Dr. Rudisch, Ms. Karsten and Mr. Auffrey

In the absence of Dr. Cohen, Dr. Balsam convened the meeting at 6:10. The minutes from last month were reviewed. Motion by Ms. Lefman, second by Dr. Krakow to accept. Motion passed.

REPORT ON NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Ms. Karsten presented on plans to celebrate National Public Health Week. She was featured in APHA's The Nation's Health on her past work on this event.

During the week of April 5th – 12th, a range of activities are planned including:

1. Rabies Clinic
2. Wellness in the Village
3. Dentistry from the Heart
4. Free Community CPR/AED Training
5. Vehicle Emission Awareness
6. Food Safety for Seniors
7. Meditation: connecting Your Brain and Your Health
8. The Changing Face of Marijuana: Revisiting the Conversation with Adolescents
9. Where Does Our Food Come From

Ms. Karsten invited members to attend as many of the events as possible. Ms. Lefman will share a resource (infographic) on diesel/gas emissions.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONS

Ms. Lefman reported on Emergency Preparedness work:

MRC

We sponsored a flu clinic in mid-February. It was very small, but those who got shots were very appreciative. We had 10 MRC members assist, more than was needed, but those that came got to help a bit and enjoyed chatting with fellow MRC members.

The Coconut Grove Fire presentation on February 27th was one of the best we have had. The 40 MRC and CERT attendees enjoyed the program—well done and quite fascinating.

With the police Ms. Sibor presented an EP program for all Brookline library staff. This program coincides with the release of the new emergency plans Anne Reed and the library wrote. They did a great job on this emergency manual (a great template for all town departments).

Upcoming is the MRC leadership meeting, a Search and rescue Training for volunteers and a presentation on the Emergency Preparedness Buddies program at the Senior Center.

Tobacco

Ms. Cameron has been working on a cessation flyer for BHA residents.

Mr. Chin attended a meeting of the Reading, Melrose, Wakefield, Stoneham, Medford, and Winchester tobacco collaborative to share Brookline's experience with raising the age of tobacco sales to 19.

He also met with BHS Peer Leaders to prepare a presentation of Warrant Article to raise sales age to 21.

Ms. Maher reported on Public Health Nursing/Epidemiology:

Annual statistics for the Division were reviewed. Of interest were the downward trends in flu vaccinations (likely due to the pharmacies and providers ramping up their efforts now that there is reimbursement). The types of non-flu vaccines administered showed most were for varicella, MMR, Hep B, D Tap, and Hep A.

The immunization administration trend has remained relatively stable, with a spike in 2011. Bat to human possible exposures were at 98 last year, accounting for a significant minority of reports to DPH. The Latent TB trend is down over the past nine years. Finally, communicable disease reports were led by Influenza, Lyme disease, Campylobacter, Salmonella, Hep C, Giardia, Shigella, and Noro Virus.

Ms. Westley is still receiving reports of lab confirmed flu, almost all type A, average age 40. There is an outbreak of GI disease at a local public school that we are tracking. One grade has a 30% attack rate.

Dr. Rudisch reported on Child Health. The State is assuming more of a role in the actual licensing of day care centers, freeing up our staff to focus more attention on Quality Control and consultation on child development issues. Also, Bright Horizons is completing their renovation on Harvard Street and they will slowly be gearing up to accept over 100 children.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Balsam reported on the community meeting with New England Treatment Access folks. There are definite concerns regarding traffic and parking that NETA will need to address. Meanwhile, the Board of Selectmen will vote on the licensing scheme for the dispensary in the next several weeks.

The Citizen's Survey has been released and is posted on the front page of the Town website. Results were quite favorable.

Narcan will be distributed to fire and police, and to nurses at the high school. Fallon will do the training of staff in its use.

Budget reviews continue. No major issues to report to date. We did see a 27K cut for next year in our Tobacco Control grant. We will seek additional funding or cut back some on our activities.

Town Meeting is coming in May. Our next meeting will be devoted to Hearings on proposed Warrant Articles, which we know will include two related to Tobacco Control. That date is Tuesday, April 8th.

PROPOSAL BY MS. MAHER

Ms. Maher pitched a request to support the work being done to ensure that all upcoming school construction work be accomplished with an eye toward promoting safe pedestrian and bike use. This initiative began with the Devotion School, but has relevance for all schools.

Motion by Dr. Schlaff, second by Dr. Krakow to support. Motion passed. Ms. Maher will prepare a letter which Dr. Balsam will put on ACPH stationery and send on our behalf.

PREVIEW OF HEALTH POLICY FORUM

Mr. Auffrey reviewed the program for the 19th Annual Public Forum entitled: HEALTHCARE REFORM: A REPORT CARD. The date is Wednesday, July 25th. Some minor edits to the flyer/poster were suggested.

CLIMATE CHANGE

No report this month.

CHNA 18

Ms. Lefman reported on a meeting with Mr. LaPonte from Newton Wellesley Hospital. Some resources may emerge.

The next meeting on Tuesday, April 8th will be a Public Hearing on proposed Warrant Articles.

There being no further business, motion by Dr. Schlaff, second by Dr. Krakow to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Balsam Ph.D., MPH
Director
Public Health and Human Services